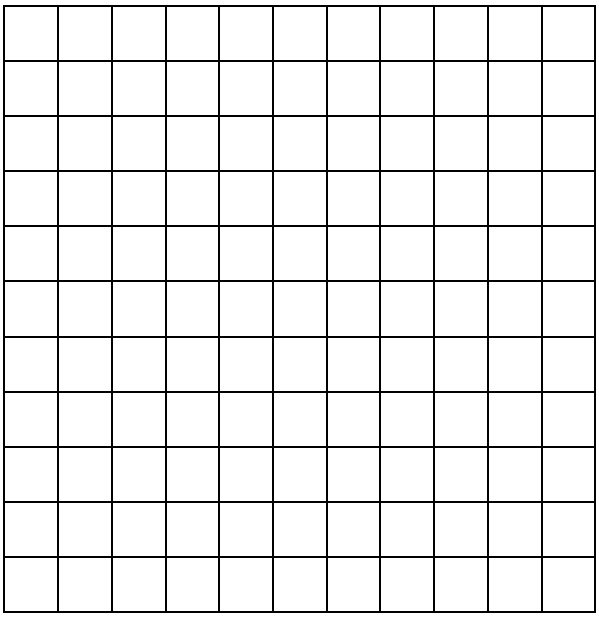
Puzzle #186 — November, 2016 "Ballot Box"

Instructions: Guess the words defined by the cryptic clues (answers vary in length from four to nine letters, nine are capitalized, one is foreign, and one is an acronym) then enter them in the grid one after another in the same order as their clues, starting in the upper left corner. Across words that don't end at the right continue on the next row, and down words that don't end at the bottom continue in the next column. Six across words and seven down words won't fit in the grid unless one of their letters is omitted. Those thirteen letters, taken in order as they occur in across and down words, spell a four-word phrase related to the mystery entries. Thanks to Kevin Wald for test-solving and editing this puzzle.



Across

1. *Mystery entry*
2. Mixed set in circle taking it easy
3. Creditor gets 50 in exchange for fixer's 1000
4. Princess's flower's a calamity
5. Prevent ruminants surrounding territory
6. Repair roster incorrectly
7. Make sense of Peter's butt
8. A refuge or seaport
9. A shape of no value
10. Lower vehicle left position
11. Odd detail: one missing letter
12. Latin table of misspelled names
13. Rub around large knot
14. A Guinness of pale cast
15. A fish turned to the sheltered side
16. Unlikely eco-toy for a canine
17. Fruit time
18. Observe moon appear
19. Mountains of natural scenery
20. Hat dad found in southern city
21. Amish translated into a Russian name
22. Dame with land in the mideast
23. Euphonious pair holding letter of credit
24. *Mystery entry*

Down

1. Synthesize this one protein
2. He'd be a bad guillotine
3. Launch into crude falsification
4. Add to letter: tell about goatfish
5. Each night hide from Rudy
6. Moth racer holds line
7. Black cover or lack of color
8. Child in slipper's a disgrace
9. Pat a tart's breast
10. Another derangement involving cattleman
11. Put aside about fifty for balm
12. Dame stretched out about dead
13. Note added, mark subtracted and taken on again
14. Short term weapon
15. Instrument improperly made beer cold
16. A character is to make amends
17. Cleopatra's maid's dress turned around
18. Not a working international body
19. A stroke Don put together
20. Misled about small land mass
21. Island mass high in Italy
22. Seated awkwardly but quiet
23. Son to wait or pass